

Approved For Release 2001/03/04 : CIA-RDP80-
29 JUL 1972

U.S. ISSUES REPORT TO REBUT CHARGES ON DIKE BOMBINGS

Intelligence Document Says
Hits Were Unintentional
and Damage Was Minor

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 28—The Administration today released a Government intelligence report finding that American bombing had damaged North Vietnam's dike system at 12 points. But the report concluded that the hits were unintentional, their impact was minor "and no major dike has been breached."

The eight-page report, put together largely by the Central Intelligence Agency, was given

Text of State Department's
report is on Page 2.

newsmen by the State Department to buttress the Administration's contention that North Vietnam was falsely charging the United States with bombing the dikes systematically and deliberately.

"Photographic evidence shows conclusively that there has been no intentional bombing of the dikes," the report said. The photographs were taken on July 10 and 11, a State Department official said. Later photos were not available, the official said, because reconnaissance flights by the United States Air Force were hampered by cloud conditions over the Red River Delta area in which the extensive 2,700-mile network of dikes and dams is centered.

[In the dispute between President Nixon and Secretary General Waldheim over bombing of dikes, the Secretary General called in George Bush, the United States delegate. Their conversation, while not described publicly, dealt with Mr. Nixon's charge that Mr. Waldheim had been "taken in" by Hanoi's assertions. And in South Dakota,

Senator George McGovern asserted that Mr. Nixon had "stooped beneath the dignity of his office" in his news-conference comments on bombing. Pages 2 and 10.]

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The report also said that all the dike damage occurred within close range of "specific targets of military value."

"Of the 12 locations where damage has occurred, 10 are close to identified individual targets such as petroleum storage facilities, and the other two are adjacent to road and river transport lines," the report said.

It said that because a large number of the dikes serve as the bases for roadways, "the maze they create throughout the delta makes it almost inevitable that air attacks directed against transportation targets cause scattered damage to dikes."

The report said that the bomb craters identified by photographic reconnaissance at the 12 locations "can be repaired easily with a minimum of labor and equipment—a crew of less than 50 men with wheelbarrows and hand tools could repair in a day the largest crater observed."

"Repairs to all the dikes could be completed within a week," it said.

Although the report was based on photographer reconnaissance, the State Department refused to show newsmen any of the photographic evidence. A department official said that it was decided today not to issue the photograph because it was felt by the Administration that this would only provoke North Vietnam to issue its own photographs in rebuttal, some of which might be "fabricated."

This report, including the photographs, prepared earlier and presented on Monday to Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations, by George Bush, the United States delegate. Mr. Waldheim had said he had unofficial information that the United States was bombing the dikes.

Yesterday, at his news conference, President Nixon forcefully denied Hanoi's charges about a systematic bombing campaign against the dikes and said that Mr. Waldheim and other well-intentioned and naive people had been "taken in" by Hanoi's propaganda.

Mr. Nixon conceded, as have other spokesmen, that there had been some damage to the dikes by accidental hits. Today, North Vietnam's radio repeated that "Nixon has intentionally attacked the dike network in North Vietnam in line with all his wicked and barbarous plans."

Senator J. W. Fulbright, chair-

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man of the Foreign Relations Committee, was briefed along with other Senators by the C. I. A., a few days ago. He said today that he had no quarrel with the conclusion of the report. He said that the photo evidence he was shown seemed to support the view that the dike damage was near military targets.